

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11, and 13-21 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 10 and 12. In addition, Applicant amends claim 1 to include the features of claims 10 and 12. Applicant also rewrites claims 13, 20, and 21 into their independent form including all the features of their base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant also amends claim 16 to depend on claim 1 as opposed to the canceled claim 10.

Claims 12, 13, 20, and 21 contain allowable subject matter but are objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By this amendment, the features of the allowable claim 12 along with the intervening claim 10 are included in claim 1. Moreover, claims 13, 20, and 21 are rewritten into their independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, it is appropriate and necessary for the Examiner to allow claims 1, 13, 20, and 21. Claims 2-9, 11, and 14-19 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/801,697

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

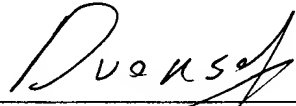
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Respectfully submitted,



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